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GRANT

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INSTRUCTOR LITERATURE SERIES

The Story of Grant

BY

Elizabeth McKane

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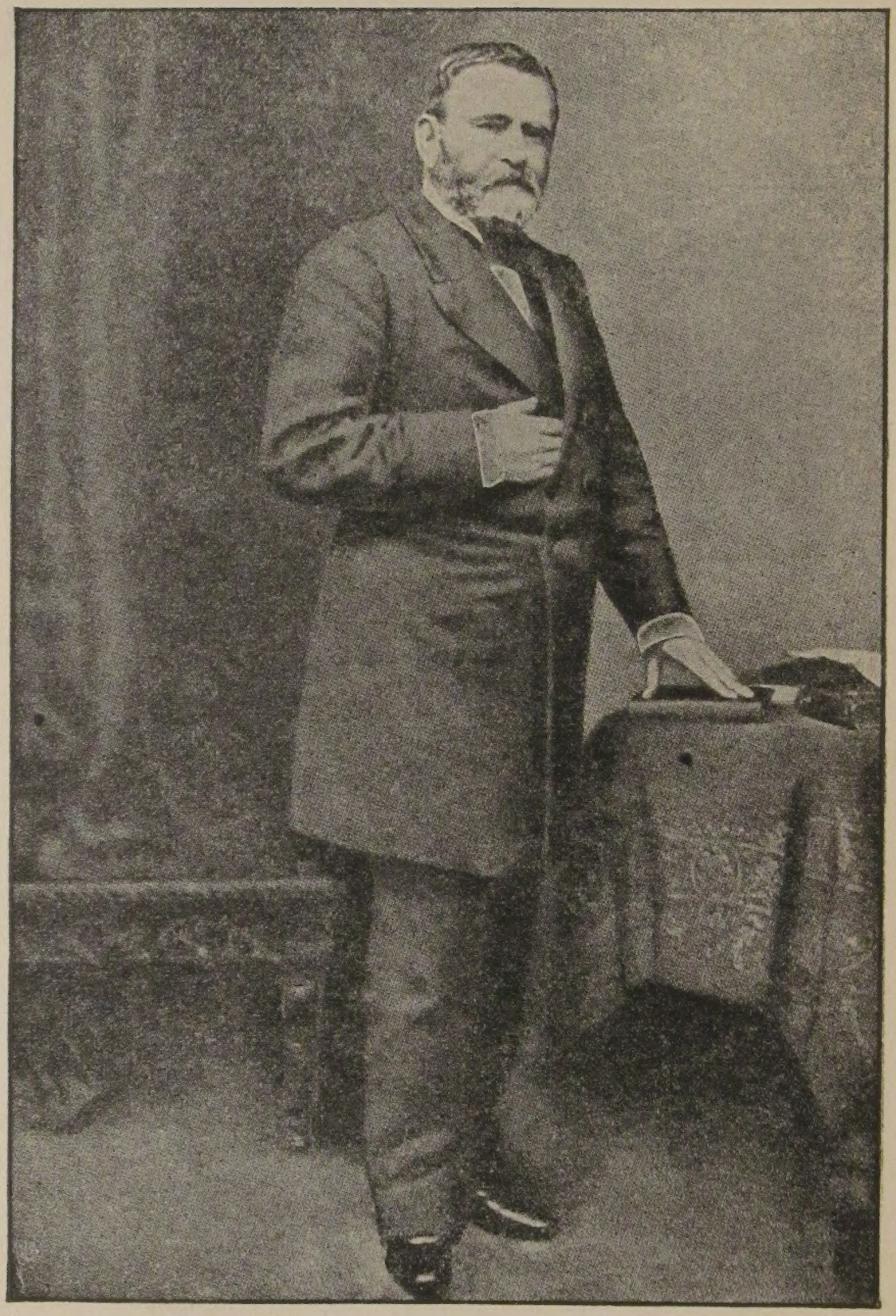

General U. S. Grant

The Story of Grant.

Ulysses Simpson Grant was born April 27, 1822, at Point Pleasant, Ohio, a little town on the Ohio river about twenty-five miles above Cincinnati. In 1823 his family moved eastward into the next county and made their home at Georgetown.

When General Grant was a little boy there were no free schools. Each person who had children of school age paid a certain amount toward the expenses of the school. Ulysses Grant attended one of these "subscription schools," as they were called, until he was fifteen years of age. Then he was sent away from home to a better school for two winters.

In the country village where Ulysses Grant passed his youth everyone worked very hard. Mr. Grant manufactured leather and at the same time owned and tilled a large farm, thus he could easily keep his six children busy. While Ulysses was never allowed to stay away from school, yet he was expected to do a certain amount of farm work each day.

When only eight years of age he hauled all the wood used for fuel in the house and in the leather factory. At the age of eleven he began to plough, and from that time until he was seventeen, he did all the work in which horses were used, such as ploughing, bringing in the crops, and hauling the wood; besides this he took care of two or three horses, a cow or two, and sawed wood for the stoves.

All this seems like a great deal of work for a school-boy to do, but Ulysses Grant did not think he was working too hard for all his boy friends were as busy as he. He loved horses and preferred working with them to helping in his father's tannery. In the Grant household there was never any scolding or harsh treatment, and the boys were allowed such pleasures as fishing, swimming in the creek, skating on the ice, sleighing, or taking a horse and visiting their grandparents who lived fifteen miles away.

One day when Ulysses was about eight years old a neighbor came to their house leading a colt which he wished to sell. Ulysses wanted it very much, but his father thought the price, twenty-five dollars, too high and offered twenty. The man refused to lower his price and finally took the colt home. Ulysses was so disappointed that Mr. Grant gave him the money and told him he might go for the colt. He was instructed to offer twenty dollars and if that was refused to offer twenty-two dollars and fifty cents, if that was not accepted he was to give the twenty-five dollars. It did not take him long to mount a horse and ride to the neighbor's house. Arriving there he said breathlessly, "Papa says I may offer you twenty dollars for the colt, but if you won't take that I am to offer twenty-two and a half, and if you won't take that, to give you twenty-five." Ulysses led the colt home and I think you can all guess the price. The story of this horse trade got out among the boys of the village and they teased the little trader for a long time afterwards.

When Grant was seventeen he entered the military academy at West Point. Of his appointment to this school and the journey from his home to West Point he says, "In the winter of 1838-9 I was attending school at Ripley, ten miles distant from Georgetown, but spent the Christmas holidays at home. During this vacation my father received a letter from the Honorable Thomas Morris, then United States Senator from Ohio.

"When he read it he said to me, 'Ulysses, I believe you are going to receive the appointment.' 'What appointment?' I inquired. 'To West Point; I have applied for it.' 'But I won't go,' I said. He said he thought I would, and I thought so too, if he did. I really had no objections to going to West Point, except that I did not believe that I possessed the acquirements necessary to get through, and I could not bear the idea of failing.

"Besides the argument used by my father in favor of my going to West Point, that 'he thought I would go' —there was another very strong inducement. I had always had a great desire to travel. I was already the best traveled boy in Georgetown, except the sons of one man, John Walker, who had emigrated to Texas with his family and immigrated back as soon as he could get the means to do so.

"I had been east to Wheeling, Virginia, (now West Virginia) and north to the Western Reserve, in Ohio, west to Louisville, and south to Bourbon county, Kentucky, besides having driven or ridden pretty much over the whole country within fifty miles of

home. Going to West Point would give me the opportunity of visiting the two great cities of the continent, Philadelphia and New York.

"I took passage on a steamer at Ripley, Ohio, for Pittsburg, about the middle of May, 1839. Western boats at that day did not make regular trips at stated times, but would stop anywhere, and for any length of time, for passengers or freight. On this occasion we had no delays, and in three days Pittsburg was reached. From Pittsburg I chose passage by the canal to Harrisburg, rather than by the quicker stage.

"This gave better opportunity of enjoying the fine scenery of Western Pennsylvania, and I had rather a dread of reaching my destination at all. At that time the canal was much used by travelers, and, with the comfortable packets of the period, no mode of conveyance could be more pleasant, when time was not an object. From Harrisburg to Philadelphia there was a railroad, the first I had ever seen, except the one on which I had just crossed the summit of the Alleghany Mountains.

"In traveling by this road from Harrisburg, I thought the perfection of rapid transit had been reached. We traveled at least eighteen miles an hour, when at full speed, and made the whole distance averaging probably as much as twelve miles an hour. I stopped five days in Philadelphia, saw about every street in the city, attended the theatre, visited Girard College (which was then in course of construction), and got reprimanded from home afterwards, for dallying by the way so long.

"My stay in New York was shorter, but long enough to enable me to see the city very well. I reported at West Point on the thirtieth or thirty-first of May, and about two weeks later passed my examination, without difficulty, very much to my surprise."

Grant remained four years at West Point when he graduated and became an officer in the army of the United States. His service in the army began at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, which was the largest military post in our country at that time. While at this post he became acquainted with Miss Julia Dent, who lived a few miles from the barracks. Her brother and Grant had been chums at West Point. He soon fell in love with this young lady but they were not married until 1848.

Ulysses Grant did not care for a military life and soon after reaching Jefferson Barracks he applied for the position of assistant teacher of mathematics at West Point. He had good reason to think that he would receive the appointment, and began to prepare himself for his new work by spending a portion of each day in study.

The admission of Texas to the Union and the War with Mexico which soon followed, prevented Grant from leaving the army. Texas had been a part of Mexico. It was settled principally by Americans who were anxious to have Texas become a part of the United States. They won their independence from Mexico in 1835; nine years later Texas was annexed to the United States. All this time there had been a dispute between Texas and Mexico about the boundary

GRANT'S BIRTHPLACE.

line between the two countries. Texas claimed that the Rio Grande river was the boundary. Mexico claimed the land as far as the Neuces river. Thus the admission of Texas to the Union meant a war between our country and Mexico.

Grant's regiment was ordered to go to the disputed territory. At this time he was a lieutenant. General Taylor had command of an army of three thousand men, which he encamped on the northern side of the Rio Grande river. One day he was attacked at Palo Alto by the Mexicans who were forced to retreat. They went back a few miles and waited until the Americans came up to them when the battle of Resaca de la Palma was fought, and they were again defeated. Lieutenant Grant had command of his company in this latter battle, his captain being employed elsewhere.

He was very proud of being leader of his company. He describes his part in the battle thus, "The Mexicans were giving way all along the line. I at last found a clear space separating two ponds. There seemed to be a few men in front and I charged upon them with my company. We captured a Mexican colonel, who had been wounded, and a few men. Just as I was sending them to the rear with a guard of two or three men, a private came from the front bringing back one of our officers, who had been badly wounded in advance of where I was. The ground had been charged over before.

"My exploit was equal to that of the soldier who boasted that he had cut off the leg of one of the

enemy. When asked why he did not cut off his head, he replied, 'Some one had done that before.' This left no doubt in my mind but that the battle of Resaca de la Palma would have been won, just as it was, if I had not been there."

Soon after these two battles took place war was declared between the United States and Mexico. This war lasted two years. The American army fought its way to the City of Mexico, which was captured September 14, 1847. This ended the war though the treaty of peace was not signed until the following February. By this treaty the United States gained all of the northern portion of Mexico. The states of California, Nevada and Utah and parts of Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico were made from this territory.

Grant fought all through this war and became acquainted with many officers who afterward fought in the War of the Rebellion. He learned many things which were useful to him when he became a great commander.

After the Mexican War, Grant was stationed at various places in the East until in 1852 he was ordered to go to San Francisco. We think it is a long journey from our home in the eastern states to California; but in 1852 it was a very long and tiresome trip indeed. There were no railroads across the continent in those days. People either went by water around Cape Horn or to the Isthmus of Panama, and crossing this part of the way on the back of a mule, again took ship to the coast of California; or, if they could not afford

such a journey, they crossed the plains and mountains with their ox-teams or on foot. No matter how they went the trip took several weeks.

The regiment with which Grant traveled took the second of these routes. It required eight days to go from New York to the Isthmus of Panama. The soldiers had great difficulty in crossing the isthmus. Cholera broke out among them and about one-seventh of those who left New York, including the soldiers' families, died of this dread disease. They finally reached San Francisco, having been two months on the way.

Grant's regiment spent a few weeks in California and then went to Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River. Lieutenant Grant remained here about a year when he was made a captain and ordered back to California. All this time his family, which consisted of his wife and three children, were in the East.

Captain Grant knew that he could not support them in California on his salary so resigned from the army and started for home. He expected at some time to return and make his home on the Pacific coast but never did so.

He was now thirty-two years of age. Mrs. Grant owned a farm near St. Louis and they went to live on it. Grant worked very hard and they managed to make a living until he was attacked by fever and ague. He suffered from this disease over a year. In 1858 he gave up farming and went into the real estate business in St. Louis.

Here he remained until 1860 when he went to Gale-

na, Illinois and became a clerk in his father's store. He worked in the store until the Civil War broke out.

When Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860 there was a great deal of dissatisfaction in the South. Soon the southern states began one by one to leave the Union. They formed a government for themselves very much like that of the United States. They called their new country "The Confederate States of America." The northern people thought that no state had the right to secede from, or leave, the Union.

Soon after the firing upon Fort Sumter, President Lincoln issued a call for seventy-five thousand men. These men were to fight against the southern men and make the southern states come into the Union again. Grant did not join the army right away but went to Springfield and helped the Governor of Illinois organize regiments to obey the president's call for men. Once when he was away mustering some regiments into service the governor appointed him colonel of the Twenty-first Illinois regiment of infantry.

When he returned to Springfield he was very much pleased to hear of his appointment. His regiment had volunteered for service in Illinois but soon entered the United States service, and was ordered to go to Missouri. Soon after reaching that state Colonel Grant was made a brigadier-general as a reward for gallant service.

He was victorious in several small battles in Missouri. In the early part of September he removed

his headquarters to Cairo, which is situated at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. General Grant wished to gain control of Kentucky and Tennessee. He fought many battles in trying to accomplish this and was very successful in nearly every one.

The capture of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in February, 1862, made General Grant famous all over the United States. These forts were situated in the northern part of Tennessee just over the boundary line from Kentucky. Fort Henry was on the Tennessee River and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. They were only eleven miles apart and were strongly fortified. General Grant thought that if he could take and hold these forts, he would soon be able to possess the country as far south as Alabama, and also central Tennessee and Kentucky. He called Fort Donelson the gate to Nashville, a city of great military importance.

ANDREW H. FOOTE.

Commodore Foote was commander of a little fleet of gunboats, which he brought up the Tennessee river to aid General Grant in capturing Fort Henry. Grant took his men up the river on steamers and landed them a few miles below the fort. We must remember that the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers flow northward at this place and so, below the fort was on the northern side of it.

The Confederate camp outside the fort was pro-

tected by rifle pits and outworks for a distance of two miles. The river was very high and in some places had overflowed the banks. The plan of battle was for the soldiers to attack the outworks and the gunboats to open fire upon the fort at the same time.

At the appointed hour both expeditions started out. The gunboats soon came near the fort and began firing. The soldiers, however, were delayed on account of the high water and the dense forests through which they had to pass. This delay made very little difference in the result, for as soon as the Federals appeared nearly all of the Confederates stole out of the fort and retreated to Fort Donelson. General Grant captured the fort with about one hundred men, some stores of provisions and ammunition.

He now turned his attention to Fort Donelson. This fort was on the west bank of the Cumberland river and embraced about one hundred acres of land. There were small streams north and south of it which were filled with backwater from the river. To the west there was a line of rifle pits extending two miles back from the river. It was considered a very strong fort.

Commodore Foote took his fleet up the Tennessee river to the Ohio, and then down the Cumberland river. Some of the troops went with him. The rest of the army crossed the narrow strip of land between the two rivers and waited for the fleet to come up. The men suffered very much from the cold. Sometimes it snowed and froze and sometimes it rained. They had no shelter of any kind and many had to be

so near the enemy that they could not build a fire for fear of attracting their attention.

The gunboats arrived February thirteenth. The next day the battle began. This day the gunboats were badly disabled and Commodore Foote wounded. Early on the morning of the fifteenth General Grant started to visit him. The roads were very bad, being frozen deep ruts. The general rode as fast as he could, had a short talk with Commodore Foote and had just started back when he met a staff-officer who said that the enemy had attacked and scattered one division of the army.

When General Grant reached the retreating men he found they had no ammunition. He knew there were tons of it near by so he had the men supplied and the enemy were soon driven back within the defences.

The Federals kept driving the Confederates back until by night they were nearly to the fort itself. Before the morning of the sixteenth dawned, the commander of the fort sent a letter to Grant asking for terms of surrender. General Grant replied, "No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted." As he could do nothing else the Confederate general sent another letter saying that he would give up the fort.

General Grant then rode to the fort and soon the stars and stripes were floating over it. General Grant was now promoted to the grade of Major-General. He wished to follow up his great victory by capturing the important places all over the Southwest. This would have been quite possible as the Confederate

Charging an Earthwork

army were depressed over their defeat while the Union men were anxious for new victories and new recruits were coming in. The Confederates gave up Nashville and several other places with hardly a struggle.

Through misunderstanding of some sort Grant had not received orders which General Halleck, his superior officer, had sent him. Halleck was, perhaps, a little jealous of Grant's victories, as well as angry at not having his orders obeyed as he thought they should have been. So he had Grant's command taken away from him. It was restored in a short time but he felt the disgrace quite keenly, especially as he had done nothing to deserve it.

When Grant resumed command of his army he decided to capture Corinth, which was a railroad center situated in the northeastern part of Mississippi. His army was stationed at Pittsburg Landing. He was waiting for General Buell to come with more troops when he meant to attack the enemy. The Confederates had a fine army under the command of General A. S. Johnston.

General Johnston determined to defeat Grant's army before the arrival of General Buell. On Sunday morning at daylight, the Confederates fell suddenly upon the Union camp. A fierce battle raged for twelve hours, the Federals slowly giving way. General Sherman was stationed near a log meeting-house called Shiloh. This point was the key to the Union position and gave the battle its name, "The Battle of Shiloh." The Southern troops tried very hard to

take Shiloh but each time General Sherman managed to keep them back until the whole Union army retreated. The next morning, April 7, the battle was continued. General Johnston had been killed the preceding day and General Beauregard took his place. General Buell brought his army into the field and thus doubled the forces. The Federals won the victory. The Confederates retreated to Corinth.

General Grant says that Shiloh was the severest battle fought in the west during the war. A few days before the Battle of Shiloh, General Grant had been riding over a muddy road when his horse fell and rolled upon his leg. His ankle was hurt so badly that he had to walk upon crutches for several days. He was suffering great pain from this injury at the time of the battle, but kept in the saddle encouraging his officers all day long.

On the same day of the Union victory at Shiloh, General Pope captured Island Number Ten on the Mississippi river. He then brought his army to Pittsburg Landing where General Grant and General Buell were encamped. General Halleck now came to Pittsburg Landing and took command of the three armies. That is, he, as superior officer, gave commands to the other generals.

These armies moved slowly toward Corinth. Altogether Halleck had under him one hundred and twenty thousand men, while the Confederate general, Beauregard, had only seventy thousand. The Southern troops left the place and when the Federals arrived there May 30, they found it deserted. The

latter part of June General Grant went to Memphis and made that city his headquarters. In July 1862, General Halleck was made general-in-chief of all the Union forces with his headquarters at Washington. General Grant took his place in the army in the Southwest.

The Federals now held a line running from Memphis through Corinth, nearly to Chattanooga, toward which point General Buell was steadily pushing his troops. The Confederates were anxious to stop the Union advance toward the south. The Confederate General, Bragg, hastened by rapid marches toward Louisville resolved if possible to carry the war into Ohio. General Buell fell back to Nashville and finding out the destination of Bragg, began a race with him for the Ohio river. Buell reached the river first. General Grant sent him all the men he could spare. He defeated Bragg at Perryville, October 8, 1862.

By sending so many men to help General Buell, General Grant greatly weakened his own force. He spent a very anxious time while waiting for new recruits, for fear the enemy would find out how few his army was and attack him. The Confederates were not slow to see the advantage of an attack upon Corinth. They advanced in two divisions. Grant thought he could meet and defeat one division and then turn to the other. He met and defeated General Price at Iuka. General Rosecrans had been ordered to cut off Price's retreat, but by some mistake took the wrong road and General Price joined the other division of the Confederate army under General Van Dorn.

General Rosecrans now took his army to Corinth. He was attacked here by General Van Dorn October 4, and a fierce battle was fought. At one time the Southern army got into the town but were driven back. They fought gallantly but were finally defeated. These are only a few of the many battles that were fought in this region in 1862. It would take a large book to describe them all.

General Grant thought it would aid the Union cause very much if the Federals could control the Mississippi river. It would cut the Confederacy into two parts. The Federals had already captured the city of New Orleans and held the river from that city to the mouth. They also had control as far south as Memphis. In fact there was only a narrow strip connecting the Confederate states west of the river with those on the eastern side.

Vicksburg was the only strongly fortified place in this strip of Confederate control. General Grant decided to capture Vicksburg. It rained nearly all the time and the river overflowed its bank. Vicksburg occupied the only high ground. It was almost impossible to find sufficient dry land for camps for the troops. Some of them had to encamp seventy miles away from Vicksburg. This was the second attempt to take the city. The first time General Van Dorn had captured the Union supplies and thus prevented Grant from joining Sherman and so the city was saved. This time Grant wished to have better success.

On account of the rain and high water he could not

move his troops by land so they had to remain in their uncomfortable camps. Malarial fevers, smallpox and measles broke out among them, but they were so well cared for that only a few died. Several attempts were made to dig canals or open water-ways away from the guns of the forts so that the transports and gunboats could get below the city. These attempts all failed.

Admiral Porter had command of the fleet of gunboats. General Grant finally decided to march his men down the west side of the river and cross over. The gunboats would have to run past the forts which extended a distance of fourteen miles. This was very dangerous. It was decided not to ask anyone to go on the boats unless they wished to go. So many volunteered for this dangerous duty that all who wished could not be taken and they drew lots.

Admiral Porter had bales of cotton and hay and bags of grain piled on the decks to protect his vessels. The Confederates detected the movement and kindled fires along the shore so that they could see the boats. They were under fire for more than two hours. The gunboats got through with but slight damage but some of the transports took fire and were destroyed. The expedition took place on the night of April 16, 1863.

It was the thirtieth of April before the troops were safely landed on the east shore of the river. They had to fight several battles but finally shut up the Confederate army in Vicksburg and besieged them. Mines were dug under the Confederate works and ex-

Gunboats Running Past Vicksburg at Night

ploded, killing and wounding many Southerners. Provisions gave out and the people shut up in the city suffered from hunger.

Seeing no chance of relief, General Pemberton, the commander of the forces in Vicksburg, sent messengers with a flag of truce asking Grant to appoint some men to decide on terms of surrender. General Grant sent back the reply that there were no terms except "unconditional surrender." The Confederates had to accept General Grant's terms. The Union soldiers took possession of the city July 4, 1863. The Mississippi river was now under Union control.

During the siege the picket lines were so close to each other that the soldiers could talk together. All southerners were known as "Johnnies," all Union troops as "Yanks." Often Johnny would call, "Well, Yank, when are you coming into town?" The reply often was, "We propose to celebrate the fourth of July there." The enemy expected an assault on the fourth and therefore surrendered sooner than suffer a defeat.

As soon as the Union troops entered the city they began to make friends with their late enemies. They offered them food which was thankfully received.

The Battle of Gettysburg had also been won July 4, 1863. These two great victories caused great rejoicing in the north.

About the middle of August while reviewing troops in New Orleans, whither he had gone to consult with General Banks, General Grant's horse ran away with him. He was badly hurt and was unable to move

himself for several days. He was taken to Vicksburg lying on a stretcher. He was helpless for a long time and was still very lame when ordered to Cairo in October. General Grant was now given command over all the troops between the Alleghany Mountains and the Mississippi River.

While Grant had been at Vicksburg, General Rosecrans had been pursuing General Bragg across Tennessee. Bragg turned upon his pursuers at Chickamauga and attacked them. They fought two days, September 19 and 20, 1863. The Federal army was defeated with great loss. General Rosecrans was crowded off the field by his fleeing soldiers, but General Thomas held his line of battle for some time longer and finally retreated in good order to Chattanooga. The Union army fortified their position at Chattanooga where they were besieged by the Confederate army until they were nearly starved. When General Grant heard of their sad plight he went to Chattanooga to see how he could help them. General Hooker came to their aid with an army from Virginia. General Sherman brought troops from Iuka.

The Confederates had fortified the hills around Chattanooga. One of these hills was called Lookout Mountain. General Hooker was sent on November 23, to take possession of this mountain. He found a heavy mist hanging over the mountain so that he could not see the top of it. He led his men up the mountain side through the mist to the summit. Here was fought "the battle above the clouds," which resulted in a Union victory.

November 24 and 25, 1863, the Battle of Chattanooga was fought. This was a hotly contested battle and ended in a victory for the Union. This battle was one of the greatest of General Grant's many successes. Many honors were now given General Grant. Congress presented him with a gold medal "in the name of the people of the United States of America." Some of the citizens of Illinois had a diamond-hilted sword made for him. The scabbard was of gold and engraved upon it were the names of the battles in which Grant had fought. Many societies made him an honorary member and many other gifts were sent him. All such gifts are now in the possession of the government at Washington.

In March, 1864, General Grant was made a Lieutenant-General. Only two men, General Washington and General Scott, had ever held this honorable position. He was given command, under the President, of all the armies of the United States. He started at once for Washington, leaving General Sherman to take charge of the armies in the Southwest.

While in Washington, he attended one of President Lincoln's receptions. He was greeted by cheers, compelled to stand upon a sofa and was saluted by all present. He had never made a speech and was much embarrassed but managed to say a few words. He then walked through the rooms with Mrs. Lincoln. Before leaving he said to a friend, "This is the warmest campaign I have had during the war. I must get away from Washington soon. I do not fancy this show business."

General Grant now made his headquarters with the Army of the Potomac which was commanded by General Meade. Grant wished to be with this army because it was opposing the chief army of the Confederate States, commanded by General Robert E. Lee, the greatest of the southern commanders.

Ever since the beginning of the war this Confederate army had for its special work the defense of Richmond, the Southern capital.

Six expeditions under as many commanders had been sent to capture this city but each had been unsuccessful. All excepting the last one, under General Meade, had been driven back after a crushing defeat. General Meade's army was now encamped near General Lee's army. Each commander was watching for a good chance to attack the other.

Besides General Lee's army the Confederates had another strong army in Georgia commanded by General Joseph E. Johnston. It was General Sherman's work to prevent this army from joining General Lee in the defense of Richmond. This he did by marching across the country from Chattanooga to Atlanta and from there to the sea, capturing and destroying cities and supplies as he went.

It was in March, 1864, that General Grant joined the Army of the Potomac. He at once began to plan a campaign. He resolved to capture General Lee's army and made up his mind never to give up until this had been accomplished. He thought that if General Lee were forced to surrender, Richmond would soon fall into Union hands.

It takes a long time to prepare for a campaign. Supplies have to be stored at convenient places, men must be drilled and officers must have orders sent them. Early on the morning of May 4, 1864, the Army of the Potomac moved out of the camp on the Rapidan river, which they had occupied for several months. They had now to cross a region called "The Wilderness."

Here on May 5 they met the Confederate army and for two days a fearful battle raged. The woods were so thick that the troops could hardly see the enemy and sometimes retreated when they were gaining a victory because they could not see that the enemy were retreating also. During the night of May 6, General Lee withdrew his army. This ended the battle of the Wilderness.

Grant now moved to Spottsylvania hoping to place his army between Lee and Richmond. But he found the Southern army awaiting him. There followed five days of battle, neither side gaining much of a victory. After the Battle of the Wilderness, General Sheridan, a brave cavalry officer, left the main army to make a raid on the Confederate stores. He was gone sixteen days. During this time he rode all the way around the Confederate army. He fought four successful battles, recaptured four hundred Union prisoners, destroyed many supplies and miles of railroad and telegraph. He aided the Union cause very much by thus annoying the enemy.

General Grant kept bringing his troops nearer Richmond. The next great battle took place at Cold Har-

bor, June 3. The Confederates fought behind intrenchments and lost but few men. The Federals lost many. Grant found the ground between his army and Richmond too swampy to march over, especially in the face of an enemy. So he moved across the James river.

He wished to capture Petersburg, a small town near Richmond, which had been strongly fortified by General Lee. General Grant knew that if he could take Petersburg he could then march into Richmond and drive the Confederate army out of that city. He knew that the loss of their capital city would discourage the Southern soldiers.

The Federal soldiers tried very hard to drive the enemy out of their defences before Petersburg but the Confederates stood firm. The northern men then dug a mine under some of the fortifications. Eight tons of powder were placed in this mine and exploded on July 30, 1864. The explosion was terrific. Cannon, men and earth were thrown high in the air. A great hole was made twenty feet deep and one hundred feet long. The Union soldiers charged through this chasm but the southern men were ready to meet them and drove them back with great loss. The Union army now settled themselves in camp to besiege and starve out the enemy.

Meanwhile the Union forces had been destroying food supplies in the Valley of Virginia. This was a very fertile valley in the western part of the state. The army under Lee had been getting nearly all their food from there. General Sheridan not only de-

stroyed all the grain, cattle and other food but he captured and tore up many of the railroads leading into Richmond. This caused the Confederates in Richmond to suffer greatly from hunger.

April 1, 1865, General Grant again attacked Petersburg. On the morning of the 3d the Union troops found that the enemy had left Petersburg during the night. How glad the northern men were that the long siege was at last over. The Confederate government with all the people who could get away left Richmond April 2. Before going someone set fire to the city and many buildings were destroyed. The Union troops took possession of the city and put out the fires.

General Lee led his army to the southwest of Richmond trying to get some food for his starving men and hoping to be able to join General Johnston's army in Georgia. He was closely followed by General Grant and finally overtaken at Appomattox. Here he surrendered April 9, 1865. General Grant allowed the Confederate soldiers to go to their homes after they had promised not to fight against the United States again.

After the surrender of Lee's army the other Confederate armies also surrendered and the great Civil war came to an end. During the summer of 1865 General Grant made a tour through the northern states and Canada. He was received everywhere with great honor. He then went to live at his old home in Galena, Ill., but was soon called back to Washington.

In 1868 the Republican party gave him the nomi-

nation for president. He was elected and served two terms from March 4, 1869 to March 4, 1877. He made a very good president. When it came near the close of his second term, many people wished to have him for president during a third term. General Grant knew that the majority of the citizens of our country did not approve of anyone serving more than two terms and so he never thought of accepting the nomination.

In May, 1877, he sailed from Philadelphia for a trip around the world. His wife and one of his sons went with him. A large crowd of people gathered on the wharf to bid him farewell. Wherever he went he was treated with the greatest respect. He went first to England where he was welcomed by Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales. Then he went to Germany and then to the other countries of Europe. He next made a cruise through the Mediterranean Sea on a United States man-of-war, which our country had sent for his service. He visited Egypt and the Holy Land. In India, China and Japan he was treated like a great prince.

He crossed the Pacific Ocean and landed at San Francisco, September 20. His journey across the United States was a continuation of the demonstrations which had met him everywhere on his journey. In 1880 he visited Mexico and Cuba and traveled through the Southern States. He then went back to Galena where he lived in a modest house which had been presented to him by some of his friends.

Although he had been a great general and president

of our nation. General Grant was not a rich man, so in 1881 he went to New York and became a partner in a banking firm. He invested all the money he had in this business. The firm bore the name of "Grant and Ward." General Grant left the management of the business entirely to his partner. This man was not honest, and the failure of the firm caused Grant to lose practically all of his money.

He was at this time, 1884, beginning to suffer from the dread disease, cancer of the throat, which caused his death, but he bravely set about earning money by writing magazine articles about the war. He was also writing the history of his life. This book is called "The Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant." It is a long story filling two large volumes but it is written in such simple language that boys and girls enjoy reading it.

Much of it was written while the great general was suffering intense pain and unable to speak. He finished it just a few days before his death. More money has been earned by this book than by any other ever published. Within two years after its publication his family received not less than five hundred thousand dollars from it. Besides the money received from this book, Mrs. Grant received a pension of five thousand dollars a year from the United States government.

After suffering a year from his dreadful disease General Grant died July 23, 1885, at Mount McGregor, near Saratoga, New York. He was given a public funeral, with all the honors befitting his high char-

acter and matchless services to our country. His body was laid away in Riverside Park, New York City, and there on the banks overlooking the Hudson, a magnificent tomb was erected in his honor.

Grant's Tomb on the Hudson

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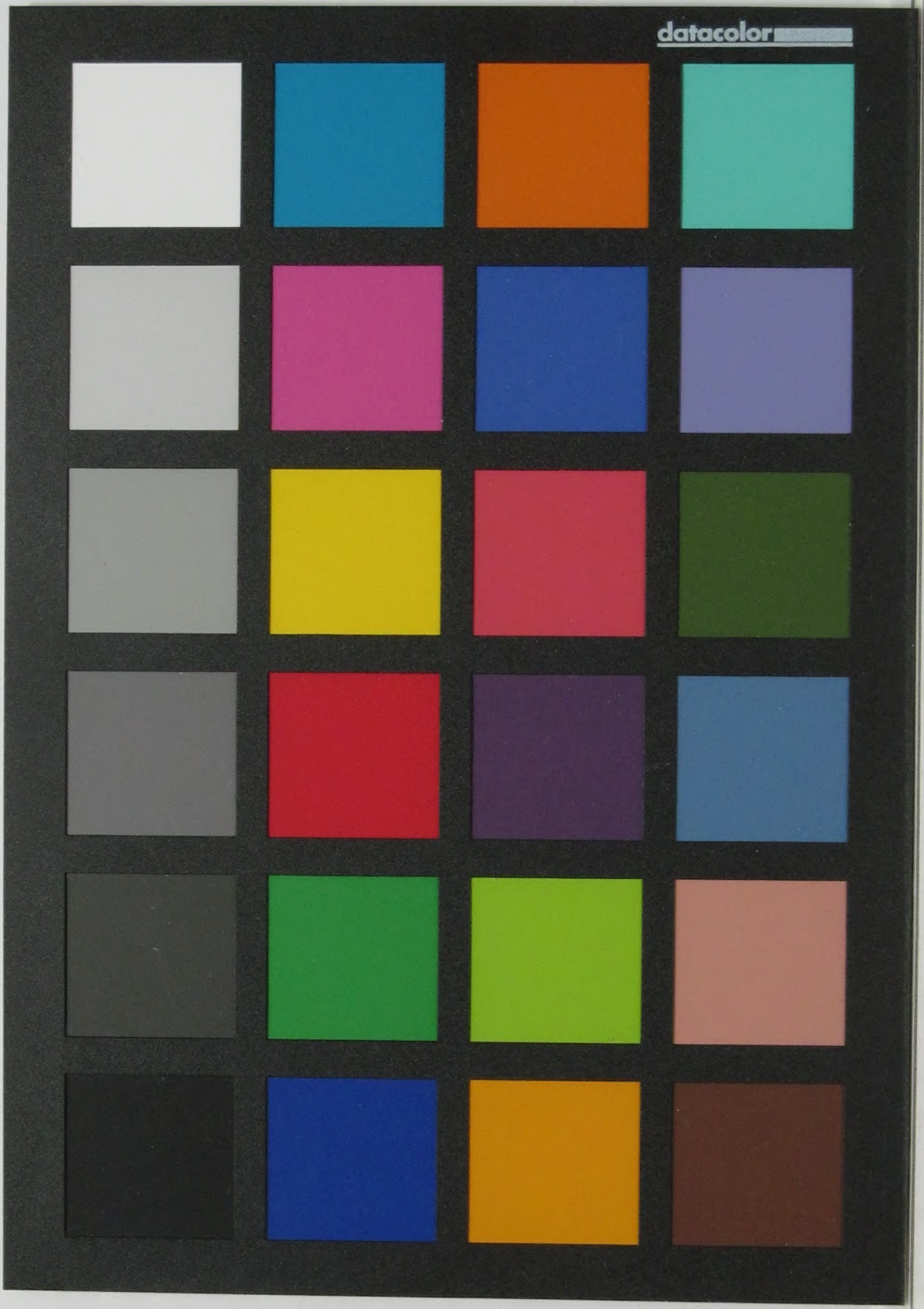
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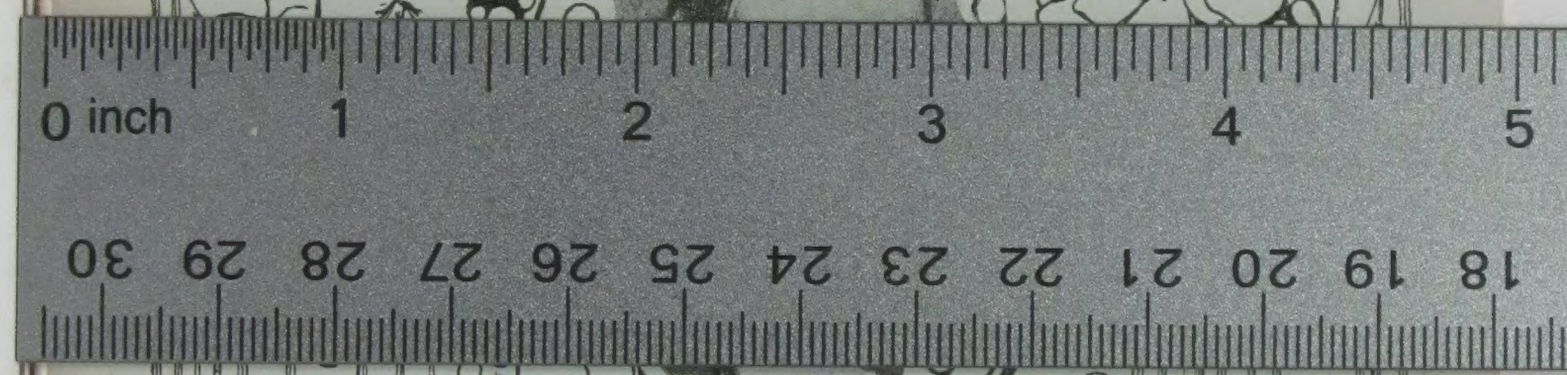

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